

**From:** [Morning Consult](#)  
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**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy: First 100 Days of Congress Energy Review; Interior To Release Offshore Drilling Rules  
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By Davis Burroughs

## Today's Washington Brief

- Republicans laid out an ambitious energy agenda after winning majorities in both chambers of Congress. One hundred days later, we're taking a look back to see what they've accomplished. Read the story from [Morning Consult](#).
- The Department of Interior is expected to announce in the coming days new offshore oil and gas drilling rules aimed at preventing oil rig explosions. The [Wall Street Journal](#) reports.
- After repeatedly missing deadlines to issue annual renewable fuel production and blending requirements, EPA reached an agreement with industry groups Friday to get back on schedule. The [Washington Post](#) reports.
- The Obama administration's legacy climate rule gets its major first test this week as over a dozen states appear in court to derail regulations restricting emissions from power plants before they take effect. The [Washington Examiner](#) reports.

## Today's Business Brief

- Speculators made the most bullish bets on oil in more than four years, pushing Brent crude prices towards \$60 a barrel this morning. More from [CNBC](#).
- Lockheed Martin Corp. is seeking to control as much as 10 percent of the global market for power generators that turn trash into energy. [Bloomberg](#) reports.

## Today's Chart Review

[The Case for Breaking Up Combined Gas And Electric Utilities](#)  
from Forbes by William Pentland



## Mark Your Calendars (All Eastern Times)

### Monday

Good Jobs, Green Jobs [Conference](#) with Sen. Warren @8

### Tuesday

House Transportation Committee [Hearing](#) on rail & pipeline safety @10

House E&C Committee [hearing](#) on Ratepayer Protection Act @10

House E&C Committee [hearing](#) on TSCA Modernization Act @10:15

EIA press [conference](#) on Annual Energy Outlook 2015 @1

EPA [meeting](#) on drinking water pipes @1

House NRC [hearing](#) on federal water grabs @1:30

Bloomberg New Energy Finance's Future of Energy [Summit](#) @315

## Wednesday

C2ES [event](#) on carbon pricing and Clean Power Plan @9

Atlantic Council [discussion](#) with Cheniere Energy CEO @9

Oversight [efforts](#) to reform the Export-Import Bank of the U.S. @10

Senate EPW [hearing](#) on NRC budget request @10

**Earnings Reports:** [Kinder Morgan Inc.](#)

## Thursday

Senate Energy Committee [hearing](#) on EIA 2015 Annual Energy Outlook @10

FERC open [meeting](#) @10

Senate Energy Committee [hearing](#) on BLM fracking rule @2:30

Koshland Science Museum [program](#) on tradeoffs of solar, wind and natural gas @6:30

## Friday

Chamber of Commerce Energy-Water-Food Nexus [Roundtable](#) @1

## General

### [The First 100 Days of Congress: Energy](#) from Morning Consult by Davis Burroughs

When Republicans secured control of both chambers of Congress with the 2014 midterm elections, incoming Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Speaker John Boehner of Ohio immediately rolled out an ambitious energy agenda: They [promised](#) to quickly approve the Keystone pipeline, sustain America's energy boom, expand oversight of federal agencies, and lower energy costs for families. All of these things, they said, would occur in a legislative environment where both parties' voices would be heard.

### [Power to the people: bring on the superbattery](#) from The Guardian by John Naughton

Efficient storage of electricity, especially from renewable sources, is the holy grail of the energy industry. And Elon Musk could have a gamechanger up his sleeve...

### [Consumers Thrive as Oil Shares Dive](#) from the New York Times by Anner Bernasek

Energy stocks dropped while consumer discretionary shares rose on the assumption that people will put more cash into nonessential products and services.

**[Why Environmentalists Are Anxious About a Hillary Clinton 2016 Run](#)**  
**from National Journal by Clare Foran**

Environmental groups are going to fight like hell against Republicans in the 2016 presidential election, but they have no intention of going easy on Hillary Clinton either.

**[Lockheed Seeking 10% of Waste-to-Energy Market Over Next 5 Years](#)**  
**from Bloomberg by Justin Doom**

Lockheed Martin Corp., the world's biggest defense company, is seeking to control as much as 10 percent of the global market for systems that turn garbage into energy.

**[Six Greenpeace activists leave Arctic-bound oil rig](#)**  
**from Reuters by Alex Dobuzinskis**

Six Greenpeace activists rappelled down from an oil rig in the Pacific Ocean on Saturday after spending six days living on the structure to protest against drilling in the Arctic, the environmental organization said.

**[Gulf spill cleanup dispersant more toxic to coral than oil – study](#)**  
**from E&E by Katherine Ling**

The chemical dispersant used to break down the oil spilled in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident in the Gulf of Mexico is more toxic to coral than the oil, according to a study released on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the disaster.

**[Obama's Climate Authority Came Straight From Congress](#)**  
**from U.S. News and World Report by Alan Neuhauser**

It's as if sportswriting has invaded the energy and environment beat. President Barack Obama's actions on climate change are "sidestepping" or making an "end run" around Congress, critics and news accounts say – including some stories by this reporter. But that depiction, more applicable perhaps to a wide receiver than a Washington politician, is at best imprecise. And at worst, it's just plain false, some legal scholars contend.

## **Oil & Natural Gas**

**[Oil rises towards \\$59, US drilling slows](#)**  
**from CNBC by Reuters**

Brent rose towards \$59 a barrel in a volatile market, continuing gains after a strong

end to last week.

### [Saudis Maneuver to Retain Oil Crown](#)

**from the Wall Street Journal by Benoit Faucon and Summer Said**

Saudi Arabia is struggling to maintain its share of the global oil market in a contest that pits the world's largest crude exporter against traditional allies in the U.S. and Persian Gulf.

### [New Drilling Rules Planned](#)

**from the Wall Street Journal by Amy Harder and Russell Gold**

The Obama administration is expected to propose in the coming days an offshore oil and natural gas drilling regulation aimed at preventing the kind of explosion that erupted five years ago on [BP](#)'s Deepwater Horizon rig, killing 11 people and causing the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

### [Oil Bulls Boost Wagers by Most Since 2010 as Output Seen Peaking](#)

**from Bloomberg by Mark Shenk**

Speculators increased bullish oil bets by the most in more than four years, wagering that the U.S. production boom is slowing.

### [Feds launch review of Shell's Arctic drilling plan](#)

**from Fuel Fix by Jennifer Dlouhy**

Federal regulators have begun a 30-day review of a broad plan that forms a framework for Shell to resume Arctic drilling this summer. The company also must obtain permits for each proposed well.

### [In Pennsylvania, Employment Booms Amid Oil And Natural Gas Bust](#)

**from NPR by Jeff Brady**

Lower oil and natural gas prices have the petroleum industry laying off tens of thousands of workers. It looks like a decade-long trend of job growth in the U.S. oil business may end.

## **Utilities & Infrastructure**

### [Six natural gas plants under construction in Ohio to replace coal generators](#)

**from Utility Dive by Robert Walton**

Ohio's portfolio of energy sources is about to undergo a dramatic shift. The state has no less than a half dozen gas-fired proposals under consideration, at the same

time new carbon regulations are about to take older coal-fired facilities offline. The most recent generation proposal, The Plain Dealer reports, is Swiss-owned Advanced Power's plan to construct a 750-MW facility in Carroll County. According to the newspaper, more than 4,000 MW of gas-fired facilities are expected online in the next four years.

## Renewables

[EPA says it will get back on schedule in issuing rules for biofuels](#)

from the Washington Post by Chris Mooney

The Environmental Protection Agency, embattled after missing several deadlines to implement the nation's renewable fuel law, has reached an agreement with industry to get on a set schedule.

[March coal exports through Canada's Ridley Terminals fall 39.3% year on year](#)

from Platts by Andrew Moore

Coal exports via Canada's Ridley Terminals in British Columbia totaled 408,620 mt in March, up 41.5% from February but down 39.3% compared with the year-ago period, according to figures released this week by the Prince Rupert Port Authority.

## Coal

[Appalachian Counties Hit as Coal Taxes Drop](#)

from the Wall Street Journal by Kris Maher

The precipitous decline of the Appalachian coal industry isn't just hurting miners—it's slamming local counties, which depend heavily on taxes related to coal mining.

## Nuclear

[House members see repository site — and maybe a way forward](#)

from E&E by Hannah Northey

Standing before the yawning, black mouth of the entrance to the Yucca Mountain repository site, Rep. John Shimkus (R-Ill.) made an aggressive pitch yesterday for storing the nation's most highly radioactive nuclear waste deep in the Silver State's desert.

## Climate

**[President Obama and climate change: 5 things I learned](#)**  
**from CNN by Sanjay Gupta**

President Barack Obama took part in a roundtable discussion this week on climate change, refocusing on the issue from a public health vantage point. After the event at Washington's Howard University on Tuesday, Obama sat down with me for a one-on-one interview. I asked him about the science behind climate change and public health and the message he wants the average American to take away, as well as how enforceable his action plan is.

**[WH climate agenda faces first test](#)**  
**from the Washington Examiner by John Siciliano**

President Obama's legacy climate agenda faces its first major challenge next week as over a dozen states have their day in court. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit will hear oral arguments April 16 from states and industry contesting the Environmental Protection Agency's emission rules for power plants. The rules are at the center of the president's legacy agenda for battling the threat of global warming.

## **Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives**

**[BLM Finally Issues Its Rule on Hydraulic Fracturing](#)**  
**from Morning Consult by Jim Rubin**

On March 20, 2015, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a 300-plus page final rule on hydraulic fracturing of gas and oil wells on federally-managed lands, which include both federal and American Indian lands...

**[The Case for Breaking Up Combined Gas And Electric Utilities](#)**  
**from Forbes by William Pentland**

The same holding company should not be allowed to own natural gas and electric power utilities that serve the same geographic territories. The logic supporting this argument has three principal parts, which can be described generally as shale gas, competition and public safety.

## **Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies**

**[U.S. household gasoline expenditures expected to fall in 2015](#)**  
**from the Energy Information Administration by Tancred Lidderdale and Trisha Hutchins**

The average U.S. household expenditure on motor gasoline in 2015 is expected to be about \$1,817, the lowest level in more than a decade. This level is about \$700 less than average household gasoline expenditures in 2014. Actual spending can vary based on driving-related factors (number of vehicles, annual distance driven), some of which depend on demographic considerations (location, income, size of household). As one might expect, households with more people tend to spend more on gasoline in a year.



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